

SITUATION REPORT NO. 4
INCIDENT NO. 2000-112
DATE: December 5, 2000 TIME: 2:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Weather -- Rain, freezing rain, snow, wind, tornadoes. A series of tornadoes moved through Burleigh, Morton, Oliver and McLean Counties on November 1, causing injuries and property damages. Meanwhile, winter storms on November 1-2 and November 6-9 impacted western, north central and eastern North Dakota, causing power outages, as well as road and school closures.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Initial estimates place damages to Rural Electric Cooperatives (RECs) serving North Dakota customers in excess of \$918,000 as a result of severe weather beginning November 1. In addition to damages listed in Situation Report #3, Incident No. 2000-112, the following electrical cooperatives have now reported losses as a result of damages due to ice and high winds:
 - Square Butte Electric Cooperative in Burleigh County (\$24,000);
 - Mountrail-Williams Electrical Cooperative in Williams County (\$10,000);
 - Burke-Divide Electrical Cooperative in Burke and Divide Counties (\$20,000); and,
 - Slope Electric Cooperative in Bowman County (\$18,000).
4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous report.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Based on a November 30 request from North Dakota officials to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional

Director, a state-federal-local Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) will start today to officially assess Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) damages from these early November storms. To date there are 13 Rural Electric Cooperatives (Lower Yellowstone, Goldenwest, McKenzie, Sheridan, Northern Plains, Cavalier, Nodak, Capital, Minnkota Power, Square Butte, Mountrail-Williams, Divide-Burke and Slope) in 17 North Dakota counties (Benson, Bowman, Burke, Burleigh, Cavalier, Divide, Eddy, Golden Valley, McKenzie, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Rolette, Towner, Walsh, Wells and Williams) that have reported damages due to the storm-related events in November.

The PDA will help officials determine potential eligibility for outside assistance to the impacted RECs. The Governor also requested and was granted by FEMA an extension on the 30-day timeline to request federal recovery assistance after an incident occurs. The extension was necessary to ensure the most accurate damage and impact assessment possible, so appropriate decisions can be made regarding recovery options.

On November 30, 2000, Governor Schafer also issued a proclamation declaring an emergency for the State of North Dakota based on damages to electrical transmission lines and power poles due to heavy snow, ice storms, severe winds and tornado activity that caused extensive electrical outages to citizens starting November 1. The accompanying Executive Order called for activation of appropriate state resources to support RECs recovery efforts.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional assistance has been requested at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA has provided technical assistance staff to support the PDA.
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director